United Nations S/2014/611

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2014

Original: English

Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. This sixth report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) and paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The report covers the period from 22 July to 18 August 2014. The information contained in the report is based on the data available to the United Nations actors on the ground and reports from open sources and sources of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

II. Major developments

A. Political/military

3. Conflict and high levels of violence continued across the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, particularly in the governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir ez-Zor, Rif Dimashq, Damascus, Hasakeh, Idlib, Dar`a and Raqqa. Indiscriminate aerial bombings by Government forces and indiscriminate shelling and attacks by armed opposition, extremist and designated terrorist groups[1] continued to result in death, injury and displacement. According to data collected by human rights organizations from various sources, July 2014 was the deadliest month in the Syrian Arab Republic since the start of the conflict in March 2011, with over 1,000 civilian deaths and injuries.

4. Air strikes and indiscriminate barrel bomb attacks by Government forces continued on opposition-held areas, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of civilians. In its report released on 30 July, "Barrage of Barrel Bombs", Human Rights Watch

[1] On 30 May 2013, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusra Front were designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council under resolution 1267 (1999). These two groups operate in the Syrian Arab Republic.

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satellite imagery analysis shows over 650 new major impact strikes, consistent with barrel bomb impacts, in Aleppo residential neighbourhoods held by armed opposition groups, between 22 February and 14 July 2014. The heaviest concentration of bombs was in the residential districts of Masaken, Hanano, Bostan Pasha, Sheikh Kheder, Trab al-Hellok, Aynat Tal, Rasafeh and Sheikh Said, where civilians who do not have the means to leave, still reside. Reports were also received that over 121 barrel bombs were dropped between 22 July and 13 August, resulting in the deaths of 185 civilians. Dar'a and Hama governorates have been also severely affected by barrel bombs. In Dar'a, for example, over 30 barrel bombs were reportedly dropped on Da'el city between 22 and 31 July, killing 10 civilians, including 5 children, while in Hama, barrel bombs hit multiple areas in northern and western rural areas, including one incident in Aqareb village on 4 August, which resulted in at least five civilians killed.

5. Government-controlled cities and areas continued to be subject to indiscriminate mortar attacks, shelling and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by armed opposition groups and extremist groups, notably in Aleppo, Homs and Damascus governorates. In Aleppo city, a mortar attack in a Government-held area on 25 July killed 15 civilians, including 3 women and 6 children. In Homs, a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device was detonated on 27 July in the Government-controlled predominantly Alawite neighbourhood of Al Arman, killing 11 civilians. In Damascus, around 225 mortars and missiles targeted the capital between 3 and 7 August, killing more than 17 people and injuring at least 100 people, including children.

6. Fighting and conflict continue to displace people, particularly in areas of Hama, Hasakeh and Deir ez-Zor governorates. In Hama, fighting between Government forces and armed opposition groups in southern and western rural areas led to approximately 22,500 people fleeing to Hama city. In Hasakeh, around 10,000 people were displaced from the Hasakeh city to Qamishli city in anticipation of further ISIL offensives. Meanwhile, in Deir ez-Zor, nearly 100,000 people, mostly women, children and elderly, fled to Baqaan, Hujayn, Al Bahr and Al Shafa from the advances of ISIL.

7. All parties to the conflict continued to target vital services resulting in interruptions to the supply of safe drinking water and electricity. In Aleppo city, damage caused to the main water pumping station, Suleiman al-Halabi, by armed opposition groups on 2 June continues to result in water shortages for more than 700,000 people. While repairs to the pumping station in Aleppo have continued since 19 July, the water station pumping capacity remains low due to electricity cuts and lack of fuel for generators. Reports were received last week that the Islamic Front cut the water supply multiple times from the main Aleppo pumping station to the Tishreen collective tank, supplying an internally displaced person (IDP) area. Reduced availability of vital services, such as water and electricity, also continued to be reported in various contested areas in Dar'a, Idlib, Hama, Deir ez-Zor and Rif Dimashq governorates, also as a result of insufficient availability of fuel.

8. ISIL continues to increase its influence in the Syrian Arab Republic, predominantly along the main supply lines in rural central Homs, Hama, Rif Dimashq, southern Hasakeh and western Aleppo. It also continues to fight for the control of border crossings and natural resources. During the reporting period, it made advances in Raqqa, Hasakeh, and Aleppo governorates following clashes with

Government forces. In Raqqa, it took over two of the three remaining government-controlled military bases, with reports that its forces had killed at least 85 Syrian soldiers, beheading some. In Hasakeh, ISIL took over a large Government military base and established presence in the Gweiran neighbourhood of Hasakeh city following an offensive on Government and Kurdish-controlled areas near Tal Tamr and Yaroubiyeh, to link and complement its offensive on Kurdish areas in Iraq. In Aleppo governorate, on 29 and 30 July, heavy fighting broke out west of Ain al-Arab (Kobanî), between ISIL and Kurdish elements. Elsewhere, ISIL seized control of Al Ta'anch and Al Mukbileh towns around the Sheikh Najjar industrial area. Since 13 August, ISIL has gained control of strategic villages north-east of Aleppo towards Marʿ and Azaz districts in an attempt to take control of the Bab al-Salam crossing point on the Syrian-Turkish border.

9. Recent attacks by ISIL on the Sinjar district of Ninewa governorate in Iraq displaced approximately 55,000 Yazidi people to Hasakeh governorate between 2 and 11 August. The majority of those who entered the Syrian Arab Republic have since returned to Iraq, but around 15,000 people are living in the Nawrouz IDP camp, while hundreds more are in nearby villages and towns. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partners in Qamishli are rapidly scaling up their response, including airlifting additional relief materials to Hasakeh governorate. They are also transporting the most vulnerable to the Nawrouz camp or to/from various crossing points with Iraq.

10. In Idlib governorate, the Nusra Front took full control of the strip of the Turkish-Syrian border from the edge of Ladhiqiyah to Bab al-Hawa, including the border crossing of Darkosh/Sanli, following an offensive on the Free Syrian Army in western Idlib. The Nusra Front is now in control of the smuggling trade on the border, a key source of income for armed opposition groups.

11. On 14 August, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2170 (2014), which condemns the recruitment by ISIL, the Nusra Front and all other entities associated with Al-Qaida of foreign terrorist fighters; demands that all foreign terrorist fighters associated with ISIL and other terrorist groups withdraw immediately; and expresses its readiness to consider listing those recruiting for or participating in the activities of ISIL, the Nusra Front and entities associated with Al-Qaida under the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, including through financing or facilitating, for ISIL or the Nusra Front, of travel of foreign terrorist fighters.

12. While the United Nations does not have the means to independently verify their number and origins, non-Syrian fighters increasingly are participating in the fighting in the Syrian Arab Republic, supporting all sides of the conflict, including designated terrorist groups. During the reporting period, Australia issued arrest warrants for two citizens accused of fighting for ISIL. On 13 August, France stated that nearly 900 French citizens have gone to Middle East battlegrounds either in the Syrian Arab Republic or in Iraq, and that some had joined ISIL. Meanwhile, the ISIL communication and recruitment campaigns continue to promote the "Islamic Caliphate" through professionally made audio and visual material in different languages. The territory encompassing the ISIL-declared Islamic Caliphate is now estimated to have a population of up to 9 million people.

13. The Syrian conflict spilled over into Lebanon on 2 August with heavy clashes in the border town of Arsal between Lebanese authorities and extremist groups reportedly from Qalamoun, including elements from the Nusra Front and ISIL. On

7 August, the Lebanese Army announced that the Lebanese Armed Forces had regained control of the town which was declared free of foreign fighters. Approximately 1,086 Syrians returned from Arsal to the Syrian Arab Republic as a result.

B. Human rights

14. Grave violations of child rights continued to occur during the reporting period, including the killing and maiming of children, child recruitment and the arbitrary detention and abduction of children. Around 130 of the 153 students abducted by ISIL on 29 May while travelling to Ain al-Arab, Aleppo, continue to be held by the group. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) received reports on 22 July that two of the students escaped; the students reported witnessing beatings and electric shock of other students as a means to obtain information about political activists in Ain al-Arab (Kobani) and Aleppo. Some of the children from the group are also reportedly detained with adults in substandard conditions.

15. Armed opposition groups in the Syrian Arab Republic continue to recruit children, with over 120 cases of the recruitment and use of children documented in 2014, including girls and some as young as 8. Of these, more than half of the cases have been attributed to the Free Syrian Army. While reports prior to 2014 indicated that children associated with armed groups were predominantly engaged in support functions, there has been a confirmed trend of increased use of children in combat roles this year. On 31 July, the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces (Syrian Coalition) sent a letter to the Security Council, attaching a communiqué adopted jointly by the Syrian Coalition and the Supreme Military Council of the Free Syrian Army to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. They pledged, inter alia, to ensure that command orders are issued to Free Syrian Army units to prohibit the recruitment of children and end the military use of schools and hospitals for military purposes.

16. Violations against women also continued during the reporting period. On 17 July, a woman was reportedly stoned to death by approximately 30 members of ISIL, after being found guilty of adultery by an ISIL sharia court in the city of Al Tabaqa, in Raqqa governorate. During the last week of July, ISIL distributed leaflets listing restrictions on women's dress codes in Deir ez-Zor and Raqqa, noting that violations would entail severe punishment. Meanwhile, reports were also received that other armed opposition groups are imitating ISIL in their treatment of civilians in areas under their control. For example, in Douma, Rif Dimashq, there have been reports of stoning for adultery and homosexuality by armed opposition groups.

17. On 25 July, ISIL reportedly captured and executed over 40 Government soldiers in Raqqa. Internet-based footage depicted gruesome images of dead army soldiers, some of whom appeared to have been decapitated, their heads placed on sticks or metal poles in the centre of Raqqa city. On 26 July, a media activist was executed and his body tied to a pole on public display by the Nusra Front and ISIL. The victim was accused by ISIL and the Nusra Front of being part of Al-Kafan al-Abyad, a Kurdish militant group based in Abu Kamal. In addition, ISIL continues to hold approximately 250 civilians, including approximately 160 migrant workers, who were abducted some six months ago while returning to Ain al-Arab (Kobani)

from Iraq. In Deir ez-Zor, more than 700 members of the Arab Al-Sheitaat tribe, whom ISIL accused of apostasy, have reportedly been killed since early August by militants of ISIL.

18. On the status of prisoners and detainees from the Aleppo Central Prison, OHCHR received new information that most detainees were transferred to Al-Wahda school in Aleppo and to the Adra Central Prison in Rif Dimashq. Their conditions of detention are believed to be dire, including, reports of tuberculosis cases and of children detained with adults at Al-Wahda school. In response to a note verbale from OHCHR dated 25 June, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic replied that judicial authorities have resumed trials following the transfer of inmates from the prison to the new facilities and that a judicial committee has been reviewing their status to implement amnesty decrees. The Government also reported the release of 363 prisoners from the Aleppo Central Prison on 28 July, and that bodies still buried inside the Aleppo Central Prison grounds would be returned to the families when the area is secure. OHCHR recently concluded that violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, some of which may amount to war crimes, were committed by Syrian Government forces, as well as by armed opposition groups on the former inmates of the Aleppo Central Prison.[2]

19. Regarding the status of the 100 male evacuees from the Old City of Homs in February who were transferred from Al-Andalus school, OHCHR received reports that approximately 15 defectors and deserters were transferred back to their military units; 35 draft evaders were processed for military service; and 11 civilians and 3 defectors or deserters were released. The rest remain imprisoned, including over 45 detainees, who are in Sidnaya Central Prison awaiting prosecution in anti-terrorism courts. On 30 July, UNHCR visited the Al-Andalus facility and observed 29 persons lacking documentation and 3 evacuated families who had chosen to stay in Al-Andalus in the absence of a better option. The facility is again being used as a collective shelter.

20. The Government stated that 828 individuals were pardoned between 22 and 28 July, after surrendering their weapons and pledging not to participate in the hostilities. The Government did not specify whether any of the pardoned individuals had been in their custody.

21. Lack of accountability continues to lead to impunity for perpetrators of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in the Syrian Arab Republic. Members of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, OHCHR and United Nations human rights monitors continue to be denied access to the Syrian Arab Republic.

C. Humanitarian access

22. Approximately 10.8 million people continue to be in need of urgent humanitarian assistance within the Syrian Arab Republic, including more than 6.4 million people who are internally displaced. Around 4.7 million people reside in

[2] OHCHR paper "Surrounded by Death": Former Inmates of Aleppo Central Prison" issued on 12 August 2014 details the "indescribable suffering" that detainees and prisoners at Aleppo Central Prison endured prior to and during a year-long siege by several armed opposition groups. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/SY/AleppoCentralPrison.pdf.

areas categorized as hard-to-reach, including at least 241,000 people who remain besieged by either Government or opposition forces.

23. For the first time in these monthly reports to the Security Council I can report some improvement in access across borders and across lines. Access across borders following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) has resulted in broader reach to areas in Aleppo, Dar`a, Rif Dimashq, Idlib and Ladhiqiyah governorates. There have also been new openings in access across conflict lines in Aleppo (eastern rural), Dar`a (Dar`a city opposition-held neighbourhoods) and Rif Dimashq governorates. Many of these locations had not received assistance since the onset of the conflict. Of particular note is that medical supplies, including surgical items, reached a number of opposition-held areas this month.

24. Overall, assistance reached 48 (approximately 17 per cent) of the 287 locations identified as besieged or hard-to-reach. Food assistance by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reached 469,510 people in 23 hard-to-reach areas compared to 95,838 people in 14 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period. UNHCR, UNRWA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) delivered non-food items to 81,151 people in 23 hard-to-reach areas compared to 62,090 people in 29 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period.

25. Following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) on 14 July, the United Nations established the monitoring mechanism foreseen in paragraph 3 of the resolution. The mechanism became operational on 23 July in Turkey and on 2 August in Jordan, following the deployment and training of advanced teams of United Nations monitors. Deployment of monitoring teams to Iraq remains pending owing to ongoing fighting and insecurity in the north-western part of the country.

26. During the reporting period, the United Nations and its partners sent five shipments — four from Turkey and one from Jordan — to the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolution 2165 (2014), using two border crossings, Bab al-Salam and Ramtha. This included food assistance for over 67,000 people; non-food items for almost 70,000 people; water and sanitation supplies for around 75,000 people; and medical supplies for almost 110,000 people, including surgical supplies for 200 people, as well as other items to people in Aleppo, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah and Dar`a governorates. United Nations teams monitored the loading of the shipments and accompanied the loaded vehicles to the border crossing. These shipments were possible because of the full cooperation of the Governments of Turkey and Jordan.

27. In line with Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), the United Nations notified the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in advance of each shipment, including details about content, destination district and number of beneficiaries. In addition, for each shipment, the United Nations monitoring mechanism sent a notification to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic confirming the humanitarian nature of the shipment in accordance with resolution 2165 (2014).

28. Owing to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Hasakeh governorate and in view of the situation in neighbouring Iraq, relief items continue to be urgently needed through the Nusaybin/Qamishli border crossing, which is the most direct route to the governorate. UNHCR and WFP are organizing airlifts from Damascus into Hasakeh governorate to transport food and non-food items for 50,000 people in

different parts of the governorate, and some of these supplies will be reserved for the response to the Iraq crisis. The World Health Organization (WHO) was also able to deliver intravenous fluids for the treatment of up to 3,400 people.

29. Designated terrorist groups continued to severely constrain access to the eastern governorates of the Syrian Arab Republic. As a result, almost 390,000 people could not be reached with planned food assistance in Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor and Hasakeh during the reporting period. On 6 August, an 18-truck convoy of WFP food en route from Deir ez-Zor to Raqqa came under attack from an unknown group. Two truck drivers were killed and two were injured, and the contents of four trucks were damaged or destroyed. The remaining 14 trucks, carrying assistance for 59,445 people, proceeded to Raqqa. The assistance is now being distributed. Armed opposition groups, including the Islamic Front and ISIL, continued to block humanitarian access to each other's areas of control. In Aleppo and northern Hasakeh, ISIL continued to block humanitarian access, in particular to Kurdish areas and to villages in Deir ez-Zor that oppose its rule.

30. Despite the difficult operating environment, United Nations agencies and partners continued their efforts to deliver assistance to those in need. In July, WFP dispatched food for 3.66 million people across 13 Syrian governorates, or 86 per cent of the planned target of 4.25 million, representing a 7 per cent increase from the 3.42 million (81 per cent of the target) reached in June. UNICEF deliveries of chlorine benefitted 16.5 million people with clean water. WHO distributed medicines and supplies for approximately 580,000 medical treatments. Between 17 July and 4 August, UNHCR dispatched relief items benefitting more than 181,600 people in nine governorates.

Besieged areas

31. Approximately 241,000 people remain besieged, 196,000 in areas besieged by Government forces in Madamiyet Elsham, eastern Ghouta, Darayya and Yarmouk, and 45,000 in areas besieged by opposition forces in Nubul and Zahra.

32. During the reporting period, assistance, including medical assistance, reached two besieged communities: Yarmouk and Madamiyet Elsham. Food was distributed to 6,060 people (2.5 per cent of people in besieged areas) and non-food items to 4,520 people (1.8 per cent); medicines were distributed to 25,200 (10.5 per cent).

33. Eastern Ghouta: 150,000 people remain besieged in eastern Ghouta. A convoy is planned for 18 to 21 August, targeting 25,000 people. Eastern Ghouta (Douma) was last reached with humanitarian assistance on 24 May 2014.

34. Madamiyet Elsham: 24,000 people, including approximately 9,000 children, face a shortage of basic needs and movement constraints. On 28 July, WHO and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) delivered 5 metric tons of medical assistance, sufficient for two months, to the Madamiyet health centre to support 24,000 people in need, including antibiotics, chronic disease medicines and multivitamins for children. Although Madamiyet was last reached during the period 14 to 21 July, this was the first time medical supplies, with the exception of vaccines, reached the town since October 2012.

35. Darayya: Approximately 4,000 people remain besieged in Darayya, Rif Dimashq, with no access to assistance during the reporting period. Darayya was last assisted in October 2012.

36. Yarmouk: 18,000 people remain besieged in Yarmouk. UNRWA accessed Yarmouk from 22 July to 9 August, reaching 6,060 people with food parcels, 4,520 people with non-food items and 1,200 people with health supplies or medicine. For the first time since December 2012, the Syrian authorities authorized the distribution of medical supplies, including antibiotics and medicines for non-communicable diseases. Standard infant and early childhood vaccines are also currently permitted. UNRWA has not reached Yarmouk since 9 August because of clashes in the camp.

37. Nubul and Zahra: 45,000 people remain besieged by opposition forces in Nubul and Zahra. Nubul and Zahra were hit during the reporting period with an improvised rocket fitted with a gas canister, known as a "hell canon", and other rockets causing an unspecified number of casualties. No humanitarian assistance has reached the two villages since 8 May.

Free passage of medical supplies, personnel and equipment

38. There has been some improvement in delivery of medical items to opposition-held areas following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014), including to the besieged areas of Madamiyet ElSham and Yarmouk and to eastern Aleppo city.

39. WHO delivered medicines and medical equipment to hard-to-reach areas in Raqqa, Aleppo, Rif Dimashq and Hasakeh governorates. WHO and partners distributed medicines and supplies for approximately 580,000 medical treatments,[3] including intravenous fluids to treat 3,333 people in Raqqa city; 10 metric tons of surgical supplies to hospitals in eastern Aleppo city and medicines for chronic disease for 22,300 people; medicines to 24,000 people for two months in Madamiyet ElSham; and intravenous fluids treatments in Hasakeh for 3,400 people.

40. Following the 2013 outbreak of polio in the Syrian Arab Republic, seven national immunization campaigns were conducted from December 2013 to June 2014, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and SARC. The June polio vaccination round reached 2.7 million children in all 14 governorates with four additional campaigns planned before the end of the year.

41. Final figures from the 15-26 June measles campaign show that 766,305 children were reached. There are 389 confirmed cases of measles to date. Meanwhile, the incidence of acute diarrhoea continues to increase in the Syrian Arab Republic, with 5,535 cases reported from 13 to 19 July 2014. The highest number of cases was reported in Deir ez-Zor (1,522), Damascus (798), Rif Dimashq (528), Ladhiqiyah (496) and Aleppo (465).

42. Attacks on medical facilities and personnel continued over the reporting period. During July, Physicians for Human Rights documented 11 attacks on 9 separate medical facilities. Seven were in Aleppo governorate, two in Rif Dimashq, one in Deir ez-Zor and one in Idlib. Seven were attacks by barrel bombs (all in Aleppo), two by rockets, one by mortar fire and one by car bomb. Six of the 11 medical facilities affected had previously been attacked. The deaths of 13 medical personnel were also documented, of which 6 were reportedly targeted killings. Eleven were killed by Government forces and two were killed by non-State

[3] One standard treatment course (for example, a course of antibiotics for eight days) is considered as treatment for one person. Treatment courses are determined for each distribution of medicine based on international WHO standards.

armed groups. Physicians for Human Rights report that nine personnel died from shelling or bombing, two from torture and two were shot.

Administrative procedures

43. The implementation of the truck-sealing procedures intended to facilitate and speed up passage at checkpoints continued to slow the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In particular, delays were noted in the approval of weekly loading plans. The movement of supplies to hard-to-reach areas continued to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis through meetings of the Joint Committee, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs and security personnel centrally. This measure also continued to be applicable for authorization for hard-to-reach areas from United Nations hubs at the governorate level, which previously did not require authorization at the central/national levels. In Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Idlib, the governors continued to implement the new directive and convoys were no longer authorized at the hub level. As a result, there have been no convoys to hard-to-reach areas in these governorates since June. WHO continued to receive some exemptions with respect to medicines, vaccines and some medical equipment.

44. As at 11 August, 79 visas or visa renewal requests remained pending: 27 within the 15 working day limit and 52 exceeding the 15 working day limit. During the reporting period, the number of pending visas for international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) remained the same with 17 requests still pending.

45. During the reporting period, there was no change in the number of national NGOs authorized to partner with United Nations agencies as two inactive NGOs were removed from the list of authorized NGOs and two new NGOs were added in Damascus and Homs governorates. There are 85 national NGOs operating through 141 branches throughout the Syrian Arab Republic.

46. International NGOs continue to be unable to conduct independent (or joint) needs assessments; most cannot open sub-offices; and they are not authorized to partner with national NGOs or participate in inter-agency cross-line convoys or United Nations field missions.

Safety and security of staff and premises

47. Humanitarian assistance was delivered in the Syrian Arab Republic at great personal risk to staff in view of the intensification of the conflict, shifting front lines, bombings and the growth of designated terrorist groups.

48. On 26 July, two car bombs exploded in Atmeh and Azaz, in Aleppo, killing approximately 20 people, including one Médecins sans frontières staff member, and injuring 80.

49. On 22 July, the refugee reception area of the UNHCR Damascus office was hit by shrapnel as a result of nearby fighting. In Aleppo, an UNRWA health centre in the Neirab camp was damaged when a helicopter crashed after being struck by a surface-to-air missile. Approximately 12 Palestine refugees were killed and dozens were injured. The UNRWA distribution area in Yarmouk was affected by regular clashes throughout the reporting period, with gunfire striking the staging and distribution areas on several occasions.

50. Twenty-eight United Nations national staff members continue to be detained or missing (27 from UNRWA are detained or presumed missing and 1 from the United Nations Development Programme is detained). One SARC volunteer was killed in Raqqa on 26 July. The total number of humanitarian workers killed since March 2011 is 61. This includes 14 United Nations staff members, 38 SARC staff members and volunteers, 7 Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff members, and two international NGO staff members. Also, on 6 August, two truck drivers were killed when a WFP convoy came under attack en route from Deir ez-Zor to Raqqa.

Observations

51. Special Envoy de Mistura and Deputy Special Envoy Ramzy have a difficult task ahead of them. I have asked them to look for new openings to launch a political process and to fully involve countries in the region. The work of the Special Envoy will contribute to the implementation of the six points I presented on 20 June at the Asia Society that I believe could help address the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic in a principled and integrated fashion.

52. The prolongation of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic has created fertile ground for radical armed groups, including those affiliated with Al-Qaida. Recent events in Iraq and the latest fighting in Arsal, Lebanon, vividly demonstrate the devastating impact of the Syrian conflict on the neighbouring countries and beyond. Countries in the region should find ways to build bridges that promote calm and reconciliation. Once again, I appeal to the Governments of the region and to all those with influence to stop the flow of arms, fighters and resources to all parties to the conflict and to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring financial resources and weapons.

53. Despite the adoption of presidential statement 2013/15, resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014), the protection situation has worsened. Reportedly, over 1,000 civilian deaths have occurred in August, the deadliest since the start of the war. Civilians live in appalling conditions. The conflict continues to be characterized by horrendous violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses, with a total disregard for humanity. Indiscriminate barrel bomb attacks by Government forces increased significantly and have destroyed entire neighbourhoods. Armed opposition and extremist groups continued indiscriminate attacks with mortars, shelling and car bombs. I remain deeply concerned about continued targeting of infrastructure for vital services for civilians, also a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. I remind all parties to the conflict that the deliberate targeting of civilians is a war crime. There can be no impunity in this conflict.

54. The advance of ISIL into central Syrian Arab Republic and reported violations, including extrajudicial killings of civilians and beheadings of those captured, is of grave concern. The targeted killing of civilians and those who are *hors de combat* and are no longer engaged in hostilities is a violation of international humanitarian law. I am appalled by reported abuses against and restrictions imposed upon women in particular, by ISIL and other extremist groups. I condemn in the strongest possible terms the persecution of individuals who refuse the extremist ideology of ISIL and associated armed groups.

55. All parties to the conflict continue to deny access to humanitarian assistance in an unjustifiable manner. Hundreds of thousands of people live under siege. The

United Nations has established the monitoring mechanism to ensure the additional cross-border operations authorized under resolution 2165 (2014) are transparent. I note the new access openings through both cross-line and cross-border efforts this month following the passage of resolution 2165 (2014) and hope to report increased numbers of people assisted within the framework of resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). Access to those in most hard-to-reach areas — approximately 4.7 million people — must be regular, sustainable and unhindered. On the basis of recent positive developments in access, it is clear that where there is political will, there is a way to improve the situation. We must all redouble our efforts until all of the people in need in the Syrian Arab Republic are reached with the humanitarian assistance they need. But this is not a substitute for a political solution. A step change in access is still required that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who suffer in the Syrian Arab Republic.

56. I welcome the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2170 (2014) on 15 August. This important display of consensus by the Council demonstrates the resolve with which the entire world has mobilized to address the rising threat of terrorism to the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and beyond. I call upon Member States to cooperate fully in order to ensure its implementation. At the same time, I also remind all concerned that we must not reduce the Syrian conflict to a problem of terrorism and foreign fighters. The best way to stop the spread of this new terror is by resolving the Syrian conflict politically. We must never lose sight of this.

Annex

1. Protection of civilians[a]

Examples of attacks on civilian facilities (schools, hospitals, camps, places of worship):

- As at 12 August, approximately 130 of the 153 students kidnapped by ISIL on 29 May while on the road to Ain al-Arab continue to be held. Reports indicate that two students escaped during the reporting period.
- On 11 August, at least four barrel bombs were reportedly dropped on the Bab al-Nairab neighbourhood of Old City of Aleppo, killing 12 civilians, including 5 children and a woman.
- On 3 August, more than 30 persons were killed and dozens injured after two air strikes targeted the Douma city centre, including a residential building and an adjacent public market.
- On 3 August, more than 15 civilians were killed and dozens were injured when a public market in the Kafr Batna city centre was shelled.
- On 30 July, two civilians were killed and 26 were injured in Homs city when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in the Wadi al-Dahab neighbourhood.
- On 23 July, two shells hit a fresh food market, Souq al-Hal, in the Zablatani area of Damascus, killing three people and wounding six others.
- On 22 July, an improvised explosive device detonated in front of the Al-Qahira cinema in Hasakeh city, killing four people.

Large-scale impact of conflict on public services:

- The conflict continued to disrupt health-care services. Hospitals have been damaged in 12 of the country's 14 governorates. Out of 97 Ministry of Health hospitals:
  - 41 per cent are reported as fully functioning; 35 per cent are reported as partially functioning; and 24 per cent are reported as not functioning at all.
  - 71 per cent are reported as accessible to patients seeking treatment, while 29 per cent are not accessible owing to insecurity.
- As at 8 August, more than 700,000 people in Aleppo city reportedly face difficulties in regularly accessing safe water supplies following damage caused to water, sewage and electrical networks by an explosion on 2 June. Safe access to repair the pumping station has been secured and repairs are ongoing. Reports also indicate that the electricity supply in Aleppo city averages two hours per day.
- Owing to the impact of the conflict on public infrastructure and services, cases of acute diarrhoea continued to increase in the Syrian Arab Republic, with 5,535 cases reported from 13 to 19 July 2014. The governorates with the

[a] The United Nations has a distinct and regular mechanism of reporting on the six grave violations against children in armed conflict that has set verification standards and periodicity of reporting to identify trends.

highest number of reported cases were Deir ez-Zor (1,522), Damascus (798), Rif Dimashq (528), Ladhiqiyah (496) and Aleppo (465).

2. Safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need

Hard-to-reach areas:

- Latest estimates indicate that 4.7 million people are located in "hard-to-reach" areas and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.
- Food assistance was provided to 469,510 people during the reporting period in hard-to-reach areas (436,450 by WFP and 33,060 by UNRWA).
- Non-food items were provided to 81,151 people in hard-to-reach areas (71,004 by UNHCR, 5,627 by UNICEF and 4,520 by UNRWA).
- WHO and UNRWA distributed medical assistance to over 55,000 people in hard-to-reach areas.
- UNICEF reached 60,039 people with water, sanitation and hygiene items and 23,100 children with educational support in hard-to-reach areas.

Inter-agency cross-line convoys

- One inter-agency convoy took place during the reporting period:
  - On 29 July, a joint United Nations and SARC convoy of 15 trucks reached Dar'a, where relief supplies will be distributed in the Yadudeh, Tal Shihab and Zayzun areas in the rural west of the governorate, targeting 10,000 people. This area has not been assisted since the beginning of the conflict.
- Six inter-agency convoys were requested but did not take place during the reporting period:
  - An inter-agency convoy to Adra al-Balad and Adra Ummaleya scheduled for 13 and 14 August could not take place; while the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic granted its approval, it could not guarantee security on the proposed route to be taken. The United Nations put the convoy on hold and will propose an alternative route.
  - An inter-agency convoy to Quadsayya, Rif Dimashq, on 12 August could not take place owing to lack of approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
  - On 6 August, the United Nations hub in Aleppo submitted a request to the Governor of Aleppo for an inter-agency convoy to deliver assistance to 5,000 families in the east of Aleppo. There has been no response. A reminder was sent on 12 August.
  - On 15 July, the United Nations hub in Homs submitted a request for a convoy to Houla, Homs governorate, targeting 11,100 families. The convoy was originally planned for 20 to 27 July and remains pending.
  - On 15 July, the United Nations hub in Homs submitted a request to the Governor of Hama for an inter-agency convoy to Sahel Gahab, targeting 6,000 families. The convoy was originally planned for 21 to 29 July and remains pending.

- On 15 June, the United Nations hub in Aleppo submitted a request to the Governor of Aleppo to resume implementation of the Aleppo convoy plan (approved on 22 May). The Governor resubmitted the plan to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but it remains pending.

Besieged areas

- 241,000 people remain besieged in total.
- During the reporting period, food assistance was distributed to 6,060 people, or 2.5 per cent of those besieged; non-food items were distributed to 4,520 people, or 1.8 per cent; and medical assistance was distributed to 25,200 people, or 10.5 per cent of people in besieged areas.
- UNRWA delivered food assistance to 6,060 people in Yarmouk camp, non-food items to 4,520 people and medical assistance to 1,200 people.
- WHO delivered medical assistance to 24,000 people in Madamiyet Elsham.

Cross-border assistance:

Pursuant to resolution 2165 (2014)

- During the reporting period, the United Nations and its partners sent five shipments — four from Turkey and one from Jordan — to the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolution 2165 (2014) using two border crossings, Bab al-Salam and Ramtha. This included food assistance for over 67,000 people; non-food items for almost 70,000 people; water and sanitation supplies for around 75,000 people; and medical supplies for almost 110,000 people, including surgical supplies for 200 people, as well as other items to people in Aleppo, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah and Dar`a governorates.

From Turkey

- According to the Turkish Red Crescent, humanitarian actors have channelled around $23 million worth of humanitarian assistance on average monthly from Turkey into the Syrian Arab Republic through the zero-point delivery system administered by the Turkish Red Crescent. This monthly average does not include assistance delivered by commercial or other channels.
- UNHCR submitted two requests to import items from Turkey, which were approved.

From Jordan

- UNHCR has submitted 46 official requests to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for importation of core relief items across the Jordanian border. All were approved.

From Lebanon

- The Masna and Arida border crossings between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic remained open for the transport of relief items during the reporting period.

- UNHCR has submitted 16 requests to import core relief items, medicines and telecommunications and security equipment across the Lebanese border; 13 have been approved and 3 for telecommunications and security equipment are pending.

From Iraq

- UNHCR has submitted one request for the importation of items from Iraq, which was approved.

Safety of humanitarian workers

- On 6 August, two truck drivers, transporting WFP food assistance, were killed when a WFP convoy came under attack while en route from Deir ez-Zor to Raqqa.
- On 26 July, a SARC volunteer was killed in Raqqa.
- On 26 July, a Médecins Sans Frontières staff member was killed when two car bombs exploded in Atmeh and Azaz, Aleppo governorate. Approximately 20 people were killed and 80 people were injured.
- On 22 July, the refugee reception area at the UNHCR office in Damascus was hit by shrapnel. No injuries were reported. In Aleppo, an UNRWA health centre in the Neirab camp was damaged when a helicopter crashed after being struck by a surface-to-air missile. Approximately 12 Palestine refugees were killed and dozens were injured.
- The UNRWA distribution area in Yarmouk was affected by regular clashes throughout the reporting period, with gunfire striking the staging and distribution areas on several occasions.
- The number of humanitarian workers killed since March 2011 stands at 61, including 14 United Nations staff, 38 SARC staff and volunteers, 7 Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff, and 2 international non-governmental organization (NGO) staff.
- 28 United Nations national staff members continue to be detained or missing (27 from UNRWA are detained or missing and 1 from UNDP is detained).

Declaration of Commitment

- A total of 24 armed opposition groups have signed the Declaration of Commitment, affirming their core responsibilities under international humanitarian law and their commitment to facilitate action to meet the needs of civilians on the basis of need alone. Of the 24 signatories, one group signed during the reporting period:

  o Suqur al-Ghab: signed on 6 August.

3. Safe passage of medical personnel and supplies

Attacks on medical facilities during the reporting period

- Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) documented 11 attacks on nine separate medical facilities in July. Seven attacks occurred in Aleppo governorate, two

in Rif Dimashq, one in Idlib and one in Deir ez-Zor. Seven attacks were by barrel bombs (all in Aleppo), two by missiles or rockets, one by mortar fire and one by car bomb.

- In total, PHR has documented 186 attacks on 148 separate medical facilities since the start of the conflict.
- PHR documented that 13 medical personnel were killed in July; 6 were reportedly targeted killings. Eleven personnel were killed by Government forces and two by armed-opposition groups. Nine personnel died from shelling or bombing, two from torture and two were shot. Overall, PHR has recorded the deaths of 541 medical personnel since the start of the conflict.

Removal of medicines and medical supplies from convoys

- During the reporting period no medicines or medical supplies were reported removed from WHO shipments.
- There has been some improvement in delivery of medical items to opposition-held areas following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014), including to the besieged areas of Madamyiet ElSham and Yarmouk and to eastern Aleppo city.

Polio vaccination campaign

- The June polio vaccination round reached 2.7 million children in all 14 governorates. Four additional polio vaccination campaigns are planned by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and SARC before the end of the year. The next round is scheduled to take place from 31 August to 4 September, aiming to reach approximately 2.8 million children.

Measles vaccination campaign

- There are 389 confirmed measles cases in the Syrian Arab Republic to date, with most registered in Deir ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. In addition, more than 2,800 cases of suspected measles were reported through the early warning system, double the number reported for all of 2013.
- Final results from the 15 to 26 June Ministry of Health-led measles vaccination campaign show that 766,305 children were reached across all 14 governorates. The campaign was supported by WHO and UNICEF.
- WHO and UNICEF are supporting the Ministry of Health to develop a national response plan for measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

4. Administrative hurdles

- On 9 June, the Ministry of Social Affairs communicated to governors that all convoys or missions to "hot spot areas"[b] required the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the High Relief Committee and the National Security Office. Previously, the governors were delegated to coordinate and authorize

[b] The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic refers to "hot spots". Clarification was requested by the United Nations on 16 July for the definition and criteria of "hot spots" but has not been received. For the purpose of this report, these are referred to as hard-to-reach areas until clarified because of the difficulty in reaching these locations.

delivery of assistance within their respective governorates, including across lines of conflict. Delivery of assistance to cross-line locations continues to be hampered as a result of the directive.

- On 7 July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs communicated a timeframe for submitting the weekly loading plans in accordance with the truck-sealing procedures rolled out for the movement of trucks for regular programmes: loading plans are to be submitted by United Nations agencies each Monday during working hours. The Government has committed to clear the weekly loading plans on Thursday for distributions to start on Saturdays.

- An exemption was obtained with respect to the distribution of medicines, medical equipment and water, sanitation and hygiene items for regular programmes. The distribution of such items will be exempted from some of the new procedures rolled out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April and May. The distribution of medical aid for cross-line deliveries will be coordinated by the Ministry of Health on a case-by-case basis.

Clearance procedures for telecommunications equipment

- Government approvals to import and operate information and communications technology equipment remain a lengthy process. However, after receiving approval from Syriatel (the license issuer), UNHCR imported 70 VHF handheld radio devices, 34 laptops and two ProGres servers during the reporting period. The VSAT for Qamishli was approved and is pending customs clearance. On 10 August, UNHCR received import permission approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for CISCO telephony.

Empowered interlocutors

- *Government of the Syrian Arab Republic*: The joint United Nations and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic committee established following the adoption of resolution 2139 (2014) includes a security focal point. Regular meetings take place between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Humanitarian Coordinator on an almost daily basis.

- The opposition is still unable to designate empowered interlocutors. The fragmented nature of the opposition makes it difficult to clearly identify an interlocutor for armed opposition groups. Ad hoc local engagement is ongoing to negotiate access. Interlocutors vary depending on the localities where access is being negotiated.

Visas

- The revised visa policy established by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on 4 March continued to be implemented. As at 11 August, a total of 79 United Nations visas or renewal requests remained pending, 27 within the 15-working-day limit and 52 exceeding the 15-working-day limit.

- As at 11 August, the number of pending visas for international NGOs remained the same, with 17 requests still pending.

Humanitarian hubs and presence

- UNHCR has moved into a larger office in Qamishli to accommodate additional staff and enhance humanitarian assistance operations in Hasakeh governorate.

International non-governmental organization partners

- The number of international NGOs approved to work in the Syrian Arab Republic stands at 16.
- International NGOs are still not authorized to work directly with national NGOs and are not allowed to accompany United Nations convoys.
- There was no progress in the revision of the standard memorandum of understanding for international NGOs with SARC and line ministries.

National NGO partners

- The number of national NGOs authorized to partner with the United Nations stands at 85, operating through 141 branches.
- Two new national NGOs were authorized during the reporting period: one in Homs governorate and one in Damascus governorate.
- Two inactive national NGOs were removed from the authorized list.

5. Funding

- $439.5 million of funding for the Syrian crisis was registered during the reporting period. Of that amount, $141.5 million was for activities inside the Syrian Arab Republic and $298.0 million was for support to Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Of the total amount reported for the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, 54.2 per cent ($76.7 million) was for activities included in the Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan. For neighbouring countries, 97.3 per cent ($289.9 million) of the amount reported was for activities included in the Syrian Arab Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan.
- As at 18 August, the total funding for the Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan and the Syrian Arab Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan stood at 39 per cent ($6.02 billion requested, $2.38 billion received). The Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan is 30 per cent funded and the Syrian Arab Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan is 45 per cent funded.

6. Overview of United Nations humanitarian response

Food assistance

- In July, WFP dispatched food to support approximately 3.66 million people across 13 Syrian governorates, corresponding to 86 per cent of the planned caseload of 4.25 million. This represented a 7 per cent increase on the 3.42 million (81 per cent of the target) reached in June.

- Of the total assistance dispatched in July, approximately 3.4 million people were assisted through regular programme deliveries (92 per cent), 7,000 people through cross-border operations (0.2 per cent) and 302,960 people through cross-line missions (8 per cent)[c] — a 121 per cent increase on the 136,845 people reached cross-line in June.

- The planned target for July could not be reached primarily because of insecure access routes that severely constrained deliveries, particularly to the north-east. As a result, approximately 388,539 people could not be reached with the planned food assistance in Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor and Hasakeh during the reporting period, including 284,285 civilians in Raqqa and less than 20 per cent of the planned target of 521,265 people in Deir ez-Zor and Hasakeh.

- For the August dispatch cycle, WFP had dispatched 380,500 family food rations sufficient for 1,902,500 people as at 14 August, corresponding to 45 per cent of the planned target. This represents a 31 per cent increase compared to the same time in the July cycle. This included the shipment of 19,500 rations to 11 locations in rural Aleppo. Of these, 11,050 food rations sufficient for over 55,000 beneficiaries had been delivered as at 10 August to the eastern rural Aleppo villages of Menbej, Al Bab, Jarablus, Maskana and Dier Hafer.

Core relief items and shelter

- UNHCR dispatched core relief items for more than 181,600 people in nine governorates between 17 July and 4 August. In total, over 2.8 million people have received core relief items in 13 of the 14 governorates since the beginning of the year (with approximately 10.1 million items distributed overall). UNHCR has reached 434,645 individuals in 91 hard-to-reach and besieged areas since the beginning of the year.

- So far in 2014, UNHCR completed the rehabilitation of collective shelters in six governorates benefitting 8,396 people. In addition, private shelters have been upgraded for 24,176 people in Homs, Rif Dimashq and Aleppo governorates.

- The International Organization for Migration delivered non-food items, health items, shelter upgrade and rehabilitation items for 7,025 people in Deir ez-Zor, Aleppo, Sweida, Damascus and Hama governorates.

Health

- WHO distributed medicines and supplies for approximately 580,000 medical treatments, including in Raqqa, Aleppo, Rif Dimashq and Hasakeh governorates.[d] Intravenous fluids were provided to treat 3,333 people in Raqqa city. In Aleppo, in conjunction with SARC, 10 metric tons of surgical supplies

[c] This figure includes the 30,000 civilians assisted in Madamiyet Elsham who were part of the WFP July Dispatch cycle but who have already been reported on in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) (S/2014/525).

[d] One standard treatment course (for example, a course of antibiotics for 8 days) is considered as treatment for 1 person. Treatment courses are determined for each medicine distribution based on international WHO standards.

were delivered to four hospitals functioning in the opposition-controlled area of Aleppo city, as were chronic disease medicines for 22,300 people.

- In Rif Dimashq, WHO and SARC distributed two months' worth of antibiotics and chronic disease medicines for 24,000 people in the besieged community of Madamiyet Elsham. In Hasakeh, WHO participated in the Ministry of Health airlifts to the city of Qamishli to deliver intravenous fluids for the treatment of up to 3,400 people.

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) procured 30,000 intrauterine devices for health facilities supported by the Ministry of Health and the Syrian Arab Republic Family Planning Association. UNFPA also procured 5 autoclaves and 10 centrifuges for use in laboratories at the health facilities.

- UNFPA continued to support its implementing partners to deliver lifesaving reproductive health services through 28 mobile clinics, 27 static clinics and 13 medical points in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, Hama, Dar`a, Tartus and Ladhiqiyah governorates. Approximately 19,500 women received reproductive health services during the reporting period, including 3,000 who benefited from family planning services; and 500 pregnant women were referred for delivery services using reproductive health vouchers.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 16.5 million people with access to safe water through the supply of sodium hypochlorite; 41 per cent of people assisted are in non-government-controlled areas.

- UNICEF and partners reached 60,039 people in hard-to-reach areas with access to water, sanitation and hygiene services. In Hasakeh, UNICEF partners distributed water purification tablets to 5,000 people and hygiene kits to 639 beneficiaries and supported the installation of one water tank benefiting 400 persons. In Homs, UNICEF, through SARC, distributed water purification tablets to 9,900 households (approximately 49,500 people).

- In 2014 overall, UNICEF has delivered safe water to 747,018 people through water tankering, the distribution of aqua tabs and temporary water storage; 320,308 people with hygiene items and hygiene promotion messages; and 22,956 people with access to appropriately designed toilets and hand-washing facilities.

Education

- Current education activities are focused on preparations for the new school year in the Syrian Arab Republic, which starts on 14 September. UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, is planning to implement a "Back to Learning" campaign, targeting 447,681 children.

- During the reporting period, UNICEF and the Directorate of Education in Hasakeh governorate operated school clubs in nine hard-to-reach areas, benefiting 7,355 children, nearly 50 per cent of them girls. Education supplies, such as recreational kits and school supply kits, were also distributed.

- In Homs city, Rastan and surrounding areas, school clubs continued to operate in 48 UNICEF-supported learning centres (clubs), reaching 15,745 children.
- During the reporting period, 590 children received mine risk education in Homs, including the hard-to-reach areas of Qariatein and the Old City of Homs. UNICEF provided mine risk education to some 22,800 people in the first of half of 2014.

Palestine refugees

- Through regular programming, UNRWA provided food assistance to 60,076 people; health consultations to 77,357 people; cash assistance to 45,892 people; 422 new microfinance loans; and water, sanitation and hygiene/shelter support to 13,865 people.
- UNRWA delivered food assistance to 6,060 people, medical assistance to 1,200 people and non-food items to 4,520 people in Yarmouk.

Agriculture

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provided agricultural support to 17,430 people in Rif Dimashq, Hama and Idlib governorates.
- FAO is finalizing a partnership arrangement with the Syrian Veterinary Association to treat 3.8 million animals in Rif Dimashq, Homs, Hama, Hasakeh, Idlib and Dar`a governorates.

Protection and community services

- UNHCR continued its protection monitoring activities through staff on the ground in seven key locations; 11 community centres; partnerships with international and local organizations; and over 250 outreach volunteers. UNHCR conducted a protection monitoring visit to Al-Andalus school facility, which houses individuals evacuated from the Old City of Homs.
- UNHCR and partners have reached more than 80,000 people with psychosocial support, social, recreational and learning activities, sexual and gender-based violence awareness, vocational training and legal aid since the start of 2014.
- UNFPA and partners provided 5,000 women with psychosocial support and psychological first aid services in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, Hama, Dar`a, Tartus and Ladhiqiyah governorates. In addition, 1,361 women and girls were screened for gender-based violence, of which 193 survivors of gender-based violence received specialized services, including medical counselling.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with local NGOs provided psychosocial support for 11,531 children in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Dar`a, Quneitra, Tartus, Ladhiqiyah, Hama and Homs governorates. In 2014, UNICEF has reached 52,672 children and adolescents overall with psychosocial services.

Response to the Iraqi refugee crisis in Hasakeh governorate

- In view of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Hasakeh governorate with the influx of the approximately 55,000 people fleeing north-western Iraq, United Nations airlifts are taking place from Damascus into Hasakeh governorate. UNHCR has delivered 10,000 non-food item packets for 50,000 people, of which 5,000 are specifically in response to the influx of Iraqi refugees. WFP has supplied 10,000 family food rations sufficient for 50,000 people and 6,000 ready-to-eat meals. Further airlifts are scheduled.

- As at 15 August, UNHCR, in coordination with the United Nations hub in Qamishli, had dispatched approximately 1,200 non-food item kits, 1,200 ready-to-eat food rations, nutrition assistance for 1,000 children, water, sanitation and hygiene supplies for 3,000 people, and potable water for Iraqi refugees located in the Nawrouz internally displaced persons camp and nearby villages. More distributions are planned.